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SUNDAY
AUGUST 22, 1954

At 9:00 o'clock, I was summoned by Mr. Spaak and André, who showed me the communiqué which Spaak was to issue.

I then went off to suggest to Hallstein that the Chancellor arrange a meeting with Mendès before they left the Belgian capital. I had discussed this matter with Mendès yesterday, who had told me that, in spite of several invitations extended by him, the Chancellor had never consented to a meeting between them. The French papers are construing this as displaying the desire of the Chancellor not to reach an accommodation of Franco-German relations.

I was told later in the day that Adenauer had at once sent a letter to Mendès asking for a meeting, which actually took place this afternoon.

Piccioni had asked me to come over and see him this morning but I had no time to do so and learned what he had in mind over the coffee cups with Magistrati and Bombassei in the Foreign Office. Having read the Dulles telegram to Mendès-France which spoke of a possible four-power conference with the U.S. and U.K. present through observers, the Italians wished to present a case for their receiving a similar invitation on the grounds that they had constructively ratified the Treaty since it had received the approval of four committees in one House of their Parliament. Even early in the morning, I found this a rather thin argument, but told my interlocutors that I would pass it on to Dulles. I did not feel at liberty to tell them that the matter of an invitation to Italy had already been considered by some of the other ratifying nations and, if a way could be appropriately found to invite Italy, it would be done.

After this, I had a talk with Lee Van Starkenborgh, who is [redacted] steamed up over the French Protocol, which he considers insulting to Holland, bad in content, wretched in form, and a thing that had better have been left unborn.

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After the conference was reconvened at 2:15, for the first time with the exception of the dinner at Phil Sprouse's, Tommy, Art and I went off to eat at a good restaurant. We had an excellent lunch which came close to deserving the price we paid for it.

Next, I had an informal interchange at the Embassy with the American reporters, and, the conference having terminated, took a five o'clock plane to Paris. To my surprise and pleasure, Ridge Knight most generously met me at the airport and drove me at top speed, skirting Paris, to Orly, where I arrived a few minutes before Audrey and Eugénie Thayer boarded the TWA flight for the United States. I was distressed to see Audrey leave, especially since I had spent so little time with her during her European trip, but she assured me she had wonderfully enjoyed it. [redacted]

We spent the night at Versailles.

This short stay in Brussels was fascinating in spite of the frustrations encountered. It was old-fashioned diplomacy as practised by masters of the great tradition. Beyen, Bech, Spaak, and Adenauer -- I know nothing of Piccioni's accomplishments -- are a formidable quartet. I do not envy Mendès as a neophyte facing them and arguing with them a cause [redacted] so intrinsically weak.

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